Why You Shouldn't Accept Different Religions

Why Criticize Religion?

by David J. Stewart | February 2005 | Updated September 2016 | Click for background music in new window

Over the years, I have received countless e-mails from people who are upset with me for exposing other religions as being bad. They usually say something like, "Why do you have to trash other religions?" Or they'll say, "What right do you have to criticize other religions?" Or they'll ask, "What makes you think you're right and everyone else is wrong?" A common wrong attitude is that a Christian lacks love for others, if they criticize someone's religious beliefs. They say, "Doesn't the Bible teach that we're supposed to love other people?" Telling the truth to help someone is the ultimate act of love.



Some people just call me a "bigot." Others tell me how wonderful their Catholic grandmother

is and that the Catholic religion is not all bad. Some letters I dare not repeat. Just as our Lord, I have been called many names, defamed and labeled as a "heretic" for telling the truth. Yet, I love them all very much, and my heart's greatest desire and prayer is for everyone to BELIEVE the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." 1st Corinthians 9:16, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

Many people sincerely question my critique of religion. I always respond to such inquiries by reminding folks that I do not attack people, but rather FALSE religion and damnable heresies, because they send people to Hell. I attack the things that hurt or pose a threat to others. If something is dangerous to others, it takes a good man to take a stand and warn others about it. False religion is a dangerous thing, because it leads people into the Lake of Fire by offering them a false hope. The man who believes nothing is better off than the man who believes wrongly, because the man who believes nothing is still searching (and has hope). A demon's favorite activity is to make religious people feel "safe" in their false religion, so they'll feel comfortable and die in their sins without Christ, and go to Hell.

Religion is man trying to fit us with glasses to see things from their perspective; but the Lord wants to open our eyes with the truth. The religions of the world says, *DO and LIVE*; but Bible Christianity says, *LIVE and DO*. That is, in Christianity you become born-again by putting your faith in the Gospel, and then the indwelling Holy Spirit comes inside to live forever! We do good works because we ARE SAVED, not to BE SAVED. There's two types of religions: DO and DONE. The false religions of the world tell people to do that, do that, and do all this, and stop that, et

cetera. We'll, the Bible teaches that it is already DONE, because Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross with His precious shed blood (1st Peter 1:18-19; 1st John 1:7; Revelation 1:5 - All references only to trustworthy *King James Bible*).

Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Heaven!

Jesus paid it all! Salvation is done! Hebrews 4:10-11, "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." We are saved by completely resting in Jesus Christ. This is what differentiates Christianity from all other religions in the world. 1st John 2:22-23, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also." With this precious Scripture in view, that indicts: Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, and other liberal Christ-rejecting religions. Since Hindus have millions of gods, and Jesus Christ is not their Savior, they are not going to Heaven.

Jesus plainly stated in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Christianity is exclusive, intolerant of other religious faiths, because they lead people away from Jesus Christ. In Christianity, the Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to Heaven, or else you die in your sins and burn in Hell forever. It doesn't matter if it makes sense to you or not, it's what the inspired Words of God teaches. Romans 3:4, "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." My preaching is none of my business. I preach whatever God lays upon my heart.

The Biblical "Gospel" (Good News) Defined

I also teach others that no religion can get a person into Heaven. Salvation is NOT found in any religion; but rather, in a person—the Lord Jesus Christ! God will not save anyone who is trying to be saved, He will only save those who are trusting to be saved. Salvation is not doing your best, it is having Christ's best put to your account through receiving Him by faith. We are saved simply by admitting we are a guilty sinner in God's sight, and believing the Gospel. "The Gospel" according to 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 is three things; namely, Jesus <u>DIED</u> on the cross for our sins, He was <u>BURIED</u>, and He bodily <u>RESURRECTED</u> three days later. Christ is our sin payment.

If you receive Christ's sacrifice upon the cross as full-payment for <u>your sins</u>, believing that He is risen from the dead, you are saved. It is easy and simple to be saved. This is "THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST" (2nd Corinthians 11:3-4), which is, <u>THE GOSPEL</u>. See also, <u>THE GREATEST TEXT</u> and <u>ANOTHER GOSPEL</u> (all by Dr. Harry A. Ironside, 1876-1951). Pastor Ironside is one of my favorite Christian authors.

I've laid a little bit of foundational facts for you. We at least now know exactly what "THE GOSPEL" is, by which we are saved if we BELIEVE it. 1st Corinthians 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

God made it so simple to be saved, so that even a small child can be saved. God had to make the plan of salvation very simple, otherwise the educable slow couldn't be saved. If you admit in God's eyes that you are a guilty sinner (Romans 3:19), and you believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay your sin debt, who raised up 72 hours later, you are saved eternally, irrevocably and securely in the Father's hands. God does all the saving. Our part in salvation is only to believe. God does not require us to "turn away from sins" to be saved, because that would be impossible and a work of self-righteousness. Granted, no believer has God's approval to continue in a deathstyle of sin (Romans 3:31), but you have that choice. That's why Hebrews 12:6-8 was written, warning that God scourges and chastises His children, unless they be bastards (i.e., not really saved).

The Catholic Religion is of the Devil, Preparing for Antichrist

The Catholic religion is a sure road to Hell. Kindly, the Pope will split Hell wide open when he dies. Why? Simply because he has never been born-again. The popes publicly pray to Mary, rarely mention Jesus Christ, never warn anyone about coming judgment, nor the coming eternal punishment in the fires of Hell. Is this the vicar of Heaven? That's what Catholics foolishly call the pope... "the vicar of Heaven" (i.e., God's representative on earth). I say truthfully that the Pope is the vicar of Hell. Please hear me out, friend.

I do not attack the Pope personally, but what he teaches. You can believe anything you want, but if you're going to teach heresy to other people, I'm going to expose your darkness with the light of God's Word. So what it boils down to is whether or not you believe the Holy Bible. Sadly, there are many religions that claim to believe the Bible, but they teach doctrines that are not found anywhere in the Bible. For example: The Catholic religion calls their priests "Father." The Bible clearly forbids such reverence of men in Matthew 23:9, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Only God is our spiritual Father. Another example: Although the Catholic religion claims that they don't worship Mary, they openly admit that they pray to God THROUGH Mary. The Bible says in 1st Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." The Bible clearly commands us NOT to even "bow" to any image.

Exodus 20:4 gives us the second of God's Ten Commandments, which is, do not bow to the likeness of any person or thing upon the earth, under the earth, nor in Heaven. The worshipful act of bowing to Mary is wicked idolatry. Catholics are deceived by Satan, having convinced themselves that calling their priests "Father," and bowing to statues of saints, and praying to Mary, and teaching celibacy for its priests, is acceptable behavior. However, the Holy Bible (even their own Douay version) condemns all these things. Read 1st Timothy 4:1-3, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." The Roman Catholic priesthood is a repository of homosexual perverts, no doubt because of the Vatican's unbiblical restrictions on marriage for its ministers. Hebrews 13:4 approves of marriage for everyone (i.e., heterosexual and monogamous). Catholics are intentionally led away from and discouraged by their wicked priests, from reading and studying the Word of God, lest they see the truth

and forsake the whore of Rome. Oh, how Satan blinds people with religion!

I believe that the people who send me e-mails asking "why?" I trash other religions are sincere. From a secular point of view it makes sense to accept everyone's religion as legitimate. And believe me, I'd like to just to make everyone happy by accepting every religion, but I cannot do that because my conscience wouldn't allow me. The Holy Bible is NOT just another book folks, it is incredibly powerful (Hebrews 4:12). It is God's inspired Words. No other book on the face of this earth explains the sin-nature of man, the unconditional love of God, the redemptive plan of salvation, the blessed attributes of our Divine Creator, and what to expect in the future. The Islamic Quran contains no prophecy (none at all). The King James Bible contains 31% prophecy. Bible prophecy is history written in advance. The Holy Bible hits-the-nail-right-on-the-head concerning man's unquenchable hunger for violence and his never-ending thirst for evil. There's just something about the Holy Bible. Yes, it is the inspired Words of God!

IF MEN WOULD WRITE THE BIBLE, THEY COULDN'T; AND IF THEY COULD, THEY WOULDN'T!!!

I titled this article, "Why You Shouldn't Accept Other Religions." A lot of people have asked me to accept other religions, but I cannot, because it would be against the Holy Bible. You see, God never promotes any certain religious denomination in the Bible. Instead, the Gospel is promoted. I am an independent fundamental Baptist. However, there is no such thing as "the Baptist church"! We must beware of religious denominations who exalt their own manmade writings over the Words of God (e.g., The Westminster Confession, Vatican II and III, Martin Luther's Catechisms, et cetera). America's churches are awash with manmade doctrines. Sadly, even a large number of our independent Baptist churches have succumbed to heresy. Lordship Salvation is a form of works salvation.

There are born-again Christians who are members of various religions, but it is not their religion that is going to take them to Heaven. The ONLY way to Heaven is through the miracle of the new birth by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You must confess to God that you are a guilty sinner, believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who died upon the cross for your sins, and believe that Christ bodily raised up from the dead 72 hours later. It's that simple to be saved. Salvation is NOT found in any religion, but in a Person—THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! You are not saved by repenting, you are saved by putting your faith in Jesus Christ. But if you didn't repent (i.e., change your mind), you would never believe on the Lord.

Thus, repentance is a silent partner, an inseparable part of salvation, the flipside of turning over a coin. The man who believes has repented, and the man who repents has believed. Repentance and faith are not the same thing, but they happen simultaneously at the time of salvation. Repentance is a grace from God, which facilitates a man's acknowledgment to the truth that he is a guilty sinner in the sight of a holy God, and needs Jesus as his dear Savior. It is heresy to teach repentance and faith as two separate steps in salvation. There are no "steps" to being saved, just one step... "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED" (Acts 16:31a).

Religion is the Worst Thing That Ever Happened to This Sinful World

Why do I criticize "other" religions? Simply because you cannot be saved through a

religion. Some religions like the Baptists teach God's plan of salvation so I do not criticize them. I am a Baptist myself. But you can be a Baptist and still go straight to Hell when you die if you have never accepted Jesus into your heart as your own Saviour (Revelation 3:20). The Presbyterians teach the plan of salvation, so I do not criticize them either. I have never been a Presbyterian, but Pastor Vernon McGee was a legend amongst preachers. I do not endorse any religion, I endorse Jesus Christ. So to be truthful, I am against all religions from the standpoint of trusting in it to get to Heaven. It's the Gospel of Jesus Christ or Hell forever. Religion is man's interpretation of the truth. The Bible can only be interpreted one way if you don't interpret it.

I would rather be divided over truth, than to be united in error. I have every intent to "expose" every false religion on the planet. A "false" religion is any religion that teaches a way to Heaven apart from child-like faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6). You CANNOT get to Heaven by doing good works, nor by getting water baptized, nor by keeping sacraments. This is what the Bible teaches. These are works, and no one can be saved by works (Romans 3:20; Titus 3:5). Getting water baptized will get you wet, that's all. Doing good works is filthy in God's sight if your trying to earn Heaven by it (Isaiah 64:6). You cannot buy Heaven, it is a free gift for sinners, who deserve nothing less than Hell-fire (Romans 6:23). I include myself as a woeful sinner deserving of Hell. I will never accept any religion that blinds people from the truth, misleading them with the heretical traditions of men. Mark 7:9, "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." And so it is in nearly every religion today. And by the way, I do expose those corrupt Baptist churches today who are teaching the satanic heresy of Lordship Salvation. This is the "turn away from your sins to be saved" crowd. Forgiveness of sins is a gift (Romans 4:5; 6:23).

Do you know Jesus my friend? Have you ever come to the place in your life where you knew you were a horrible sinner under the condemnation of God's Law? It is true. We are all sinners, facing God's wrath if we have not been born-again (Psalm 7:11). I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was 13 years old. I only had a child-like faith, but it was all that God required. I distinctly remember the day when the Holy Spirit of God first convicted my heart about sin. It was a scary moment for me and I wanted to be saved. It's been over 35 years now. I thank God for saving me and for coming to live within my heart. By the way, we also live in Jesus' heart if we've been born-again (John 14:20).

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."—Luke 13:23-24

False Religions

IFB1000.com. Top Baptist Websites





Ye Must Be Born Again! (How to be saved)

Savion Commission